

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05263 280827Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

SAM-01 IO-10 /068 W

----- 085772

R 271303Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4190

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: PEOPLES ASSEMBLY REACTS TO LETTER SIGNED BY 76

SENATORS SUPPORTING ISRAEL

REF: CAIRO 5222 AND 5230

1. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY (PA) FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MAY 26
CONDEMNED LETTER TO PRES FORD SIGNED BY 76 SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF
ISRAEL. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO A) SET UP SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE TO
FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORT IN DETAIL TO ASSEMBLY PLENARY B)
SEND LETTERS TO VICE PRES ROCKEFELLER AS PRES OF US SENATE AND
US SENATE FOR REL COMMITTEE CONDEMNING ACTION. INDIVIDUAL
BUT IDENTICAL LETTERS WILL ALSO BE SENT TO EACH OF THE 76 SENATORS
EXCEPT FOR MCGOVERN WHOSE LETTER WILL TAKE NOTE OF HIS STATEMENT.
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PA MEMBERS HAVE ALSO BEEN REQUESTED TO CABLE OTHER MEMBERS OF

US CONGRESS WITH WHOM THEY HAVE PERSONAL RELATIONS TO EXPLAIN EGYPTIAN POINT OF VIEW.

2. A JOINT SESSION OF PA ARAB AFFAIRS AND FONREL COMMITTEES WAS HELD OVER WEEKEND AT WHICH DECISION WAS REACHED TO HOLD EMERGENCY SESSION OF ARAB PARLIAMENTARY FEDERATION TO ADOPT UNITED STAND ON LETTER SIGNED BY 76 SENATORS.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE EGYPTIAN LEGISLATORS' TENDENCY TO ACCEPT STRONG US CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AS FACT OF LIFE, THEY ARE PARTICULARLY STUNNED AT THIS TIME BY LETTER TO PRES FORD. ENCOURAGED BY THEIR OWN EFFORTS IN MEETING WITH VISITING US CONGRESSMEN, BY STATEMENTS OF US SOLONS WHILE VISITING HERE, BY REPORT OF HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, BY EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' TRAVEL TO US AND FINALLY BY PROSPECTIVE US POLICY RE-ASSESSMENT, THEY WERE TAKEN ABACK BY WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE FURTHER INDICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL BIAS IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL.

4. PA MEMBERS WITH WHOM EMBOFFS HAVE SPOKEN ARE PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED ABOUT TIMING OF US SENATORS' LETTER, COMING AS IT DOES JUST BEFORE SALZBURG MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF US POLICY REASSESSMENT. OUR EFFORTS TO SET MATTER IN PERSPECTIVE HAVE HELPED ONLY SLIGHTLY. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE INCLINATION TO LOOK AT POSITIVE SIDE OF SITUATION, NAMELY, FACT THAT LETTER WAS AIMED LARGELY AT US CONSITUENCY, PUBLICITY GIVEN MCGOVERN'S RESERVATIONS, AND BALANCE OF PERCY'S LETTER. REAL DANGER NOW IS THAT ARABS RATHER THAN WORKING HARDER TO PRESENT THEIR OWN VIEWPOINT IN CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION MAY SIMPLY TAKE ATTITUDE THAT US CONGRESS SO COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO ISRAEL THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE US CAN EVER INFLUENCE ISRAELIS ENOUGH TO REACH EVEN MODICUM OF COMPROMISE ON ISSUES NECESSARY TO BRING ABOUT EVENTUAL PEACE SETTLEMENT.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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